86177-16   Page 68

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system for regulating packet flow to a
downstream entity capable of forwarding packets to a
5   plurality of intermediate destinations.   The method
includes maintaining a database of queues, each queue in
the database being associated with packets intended to be
forwarded to a corresponding one of a plurality of final
destinations via a corresponding one of the intermediate
10   destinations.   Each queue in the database is further
associated with a state that is either active or
inactive.   Upon receipt of a message from the downstream
entity indicating a reduced (increased) ability of a
particular one of the intermediate destinations to accept
15   packets intended to be forwarded to a particular one of
the final destinations, the method provides for rendering
inactive (active) the state of the queue associated with
packets intended to be forwarded to the particular final
destination via the particular intermediate destination.
20